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SOUTHERN GRESSITT/GRISSETT FAMILIES

(Continued from Volume 66, page 96)

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The destruction or disappearance of many relevant records from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina counties, and the inadequate or nonexistent indices for others, causes any account of these families to resemble a jigsaw puzzle from which time and chance have taken too many key pieces. Almost every identification or relationship proposed here is tentative and subject to correction or improvement either by reference to newly discovered sources, such as hitherto unknown family papers or Bible records, or to a better reading of what has already been examined.

1. THOMAS GRESSIT. For chronological reasons, if no others, the family of Gressit (sometimes Gressits or Gressett) of Lancaster County, Virginia, first attracts attention. Thomas Gressit brought in a Negro boy named Charles to have his age determined at the Lancaster County court held 12 February 1736/7.³²² Earlier references to him in this or any other Virginia county have yet to be found. It does not appear that he owned or patented any land, yet in the lists of freeholders taken 18 November 1741 in the county the name Thomas Gresset appears twice, doubtless father and son.³²³ One of these persons was a juryman in the same court ten years later.³²⁴ There is also a record of an attachment in an action brought by Thomas Gressit against Robert Edmunds which was dismissed in 1763.³²⁵

Thomas Gressit was related to one JAMES GRESSITS of Charles City County, Virginia, who was his early contemporary. The petition of John Donaldson for letters of administration on the estate of this James Gressits was dismissed at the August 1740 term of court.³²⁶ Soon after, Thomas

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Gressits was granted letters testamentary on the will of James Gressits, Hon. John Carter, Esq. being surety on his bond.³²⁷ The will itself has been lost, and no inventory was ordered to be filed, nor do there seem to be any other references to the family in the limited group of surviving Charles City County records. Thus Thomas may have been son, brother, or even father of James. The fact that a member of the powerful Carter family was surety might provide a lead for further investigation.

At the time that Thomas Gressit was carrying on proceedings against Robert Edmonds he had apparently already moved to Northumberland County, Virginia, where he witnessed the will of George Payne of Wicocomico Parish 12 May 1762; this will referred to Payne's landholdings in Lancaster County.³²⁸ His own short will, dated 13 December 1766, was proved 9 February 1767 in Northumberland County.³²⁹ It is signed by mark and the clerk spells the name "Grisitt." Everything is left to the testator's daughter Elizabeth Cambell or Campbell but no executor is named; William Cambell had letters of administration. Apparently Thomas Gressit was living with this daughter when he died.

There was also a family or group of families of the name in Gloucester County, Virginia. Almost all the county's pre-Revolutionary records are lost, but the tax lists reveal in 1770 James Gresset with 75 acres and John Gressitt with 85 acres, while Frances Gresset appears with no identification at all. By 1782 James Gressitt's holdings have expanded to 116 acres and John Gressitt's, in Petsworth parish and with one male in the household, to 252 acres.³³⁰ The 1784 lists give John (5 whites), Thomas (1 white), and James (3 whites) Gressitt, all of Petsworth parish.³³¹ That the family was in the county prior to 1770 is shown by one of the two marriage records relating to it which have so far survived, James Grisset to Elizabeth (the surname is gone), 25 August 1762 in Kingston parish (now in Mathews County).³³² A marriage license was issued to William Pollard Jr. and Elizabeth Gressitts in 1777/8 in Gloucester County;³³³ the family of Pollard is also found in Lancaster County. Later census records and tax lists indicate that the family remained and multiplied in Gloucester County. Doubtless they moved south and west as well. The James Grisset of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana in 1820, aged over 45, with a younger wife and five sons,³³⁴ and the John Grisset of the same parish, aged 26-45, with six children under 16 in the household,³³⁵ give indication of being derived from this family. The David Gresitt of Lauderdale County, Mississippi, aged 61 in 1880, whose father was born in Virginia, although living among descendants of the Orangeburg County, South Carolina branch, cannot be placed with them and may also be a descendant of the Gloucester County branch.³³⁶ In any event, it is hoped that documentary evidence will appear to inform us whether this family is or is not derived from the Lancaster County family.

Thomas Gressit was married at least twice. The name of his first wife is unknown. His second wife was WINIFRED (KING) CHILTON, daughter of William King and widow of Thomas Chilton of Lancaster County. The will of her father, dated 25 January 1715/16 and proved 11 April 1716, but not

recorded until 11 August 1738,³³⁷ does not give the first name of his wife or the names of all his children, including Winifred. Fortunately, the relationship is proved by two documents, the first being the marriage license bond for Thomas Chilton and Winifred King, dated 14 January 1723/4, of which Jerome Pasquet was a bondsman and upon which is endorsed the consent to the marriage of the bride's mother, Elisha Pasquet.³³⁸ The second is a release of dower rights by Jerome and Elisia Pasquett to George Brent, all of Christ Church parish, in a parcel of land formerly owned by her husband William King.³³⁹ Since Winifred had at least one child by her second husband, and her mother's consent to the first marriage was required, she probably married young. Her birth may be assigned to about 1705.

Thomas Chilton was dead shortly before 8 December 1738.³⁴⁰ His widow remarried before, probably several years before, 1 March 1743/4.³⁴¹ Since her son Ezekiel Chilton did not make any bequest to her in his will, dated 9 January 1754 and proved 19 July 1754 in Lancaster County,³⁴² it is likely that she was dead by that date. She is not mentioned in the will of her husband.³⁴³

Children of Thomas Gressitt by unknown first wife:

- 2 i. Thomas² Gressitt, of age on 18 November 1741,³⁴⁴ d. unm. prior to 20 June 1760, when his father was granted letters of administration on his estate.³⁴⁵ His inventory reveals limited assets: a horse and saddle, clothing and razor. His father signed it by mark 18 July 1760.³⁴⁶
- 3 ii. Elizabeth (Eliza) Gressitt, m. William Cambell of Northumberland Co., Va.; sole legatee in her father's will³⁴⁷ and administratrix of the estate of her husband William Cambell 13 April 1772.³⁴⁸
- 4 iii. [perhaps] Abimidon Gressitt, defendant in an action brought against him in Lancaster County court by Henry Carter Jr. 19 Nov. 1762 which was dismissed 17 Dec. 1762.³⁴⁹ No other record found, and the reading of the Christian name is tentative.

Children of Thomas and Winifred (King) Gressitt:

- + 5 iv. John Gressitt, b. c. 1742, Lancaster Co., Va.
- + 6 v. [probably] Lydia Gressitt, b. c. 1745, Lancaster Co., Va.

5. Colonel JOHN² GRESSETT (Gressitt) appears at least twice in Lancaster County records. He is mentioned in the will of Ezekiel Chilton³⁵² as his "brother-in-law" and son of Ezekiel's mother Winifred, brother-in-law here having its meaning of step-brother, and David Galloway commenced an action against him in the county court 20 January 1764, only to have it adjourned to the following term because the defendant was not found in the county.³⁵⁷ There is no further record of the action or of John Gressett in Lancaster County.

John Gressitt petitioned for 100 acres of land in South Carolina 3 September 1765.³⁵⁸ Apparently he took some time to obtain the survey, for the initial precept was prolonged and the survey, for 100 acres of land in the fork of the Santee and Wateree rivers, was certified only 15 December 1768.³⁵⁹ The grant was made 2 June 1769 to John Gressett³⁶⁰ and he exhibited his me-

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morial 16 September 1769 as John Gressett.³⁵¹ It is quickly apparent that spelling will be a poor guide to the identification of members of this family.

While neither these nor any other records pertaining to John Gressett of South Carolina identify him as the John Gressett who was not found in Lancaster County, Virginia, the year before, I am prepared to make the identification on the ground, first, that the John Gressitt of Lancaster County is not otherwise accountable for, second, that the age fits, and third, that the grant was not bounty land, indicating that the grantee had come in from another colony rather than from abroad.³⁵² The John Gressitt of Petsworth Parish, Gloucester County, was of similar age and remained there;³⁵³ a John Grissett, planter, in Brunswick County, North Carolina in 1775, is also otherwise accounted for;³⁵⁴ the pattern of movement was a normal one for a young man whose fortune at home obviously left much to be desired. In the absence of clear documentary proof, likely to be forever denied us, circumstantial evidence is the best available. Here, as elsewhere, the reader must draw his own conclusions.

There are two transactions in slaves, dated 1774³⁵⁵ and 1778³⁵⁶ respectively, and a lease and release which show that John Gressett of the parish of St. Mathews, carpenter, had acquired other lands as well, for this last transaction, in which no wife participated, involved 700 acres in the Parish of St. Johns, Berkeley County, originally granted to John Palmer 7 October 1772 and now conveyed by John Gressett to John Simmerman and Henry Kuhn 26 August 1784.³⁵⁷ As John Grissett this landowner was a member of the Orangeburgh District grand jury in 1783.³⁵⁸

The audited accounts maintained by the State's Treasury Department show that John Gressett served as a colonel and lieutenant colonel in the militia, stationed in Orangeburgh District.³⁵⁹ He claimed and received compensation for services performed in 1781 and 1782 by certificate dated 14 January 1785.³⁶⁰ Family tradition among his descendants has kept alive the memory of this service, but it is unfortunate that at some point Col. John Gressett became confused with his son William in the tradition, with the result that an entirely mythical "Col. William Gressett" has usurped the place of Col. John Gressett in various published lineages.³⁶¹ That same family tradition says that he died during or soon after the war; the documentary evidence would make "soon after," between 1785 and 1790, a fair description. If he left a will, or a record of the administration of an estate, it has been lost.

From the fact that he received 100 acres of land on coming to South Carolina in 1765, it may be deduced that he was then single.³⁶² The approximate ages of his children indicate that he married soon after his arrival. Family tradition, and that source alone, provides the name of his wife as ELIZABETH FUNCHES.³⁶³ This may well be correct, for Hans Adam Funtius³⁶⁴ and Sebastian Funtius³⁶⁵ (also Fontius, Fonses, Fontious and many other imaginative variants) had petitioned for bounty land as early as 1764, and either might have been the father of the wife of Col. John Gressett. Whoever his wife may have been, she was very likely dead prior to 1784, since she did not join in the lease and release executed by her husband that year.³⁶⁶

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Children of John and Elizabeth (Funches) Gressett:

- + 7 i. William² Gressett, b. 1765-70, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C.
- 8 ii. [perhaps] Lydia Gressett, b. 1765-70, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C., living there alone aged 70-80 in 1840;³⁶³ is most easily placed as an unmarried daughter of this couple.
- 9 iii. Elizabeth Gressett, b. 1771, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C.;³⁶⁴ m. James Grimes, Sr., of that District, who was dead by 1840 when his widow was recorded (age 60-70) with her son James (age 30-40).³⁶⁵ Age 79, she was living with him and his family in 1850. The family traditions assign her a birth date of 1779 or 1780,³⁶⁶ but this is out of line with all the census evidence, which is for once internally consistent.³⁶⁷ Her husband had a grant of state lands 31 December 1811 next to Gressett-owned lands.³⁶⁸
- 10 iv. John Gressett, b. c. 1774, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C., is identified as a brother of William Grissett in testimony by the latter given in an equity proceeding and recorded at a re-trial of the proceeding in January 1832.³⁶⁹ One party had asserted that John Grisset was a witness to a bill of sale for four slaves from William Byrd to Joseph Ratcliffe dated 30 March 1810 (the pleading alleged an 1807 date but the recitation of the bill itself in evidence corrects this), but William testified that "John Grisset, who is my brother," was not in the State at the time the bill of sale was executed, and indeed the latter's name does not seem to appear on the bill. It is possible to read into the testimony the implication that John was still alive, but William nowhere says this in so many words. He is most likely that male aged 16-26 in the household of William Grissett in 1800,³⁷⁰ he, rather than his elder brother, may be the male over 16 recorded in the household of Lydia Gressitt in 1790.³⁷¹ He does not seem to have had any land grants and nothing is known about his family or further whereabouts. It may be that the deed of gift of William Owens of Charleston District (St. James' Parish) dated 18 February 1813 to his "sister Winifred Gressett" and others refers to the wife of John the younger.³⁷²

6. LYDIA GRESSETT raises a series of problems in identification and relationship which are crucial to the welding of this pedigree. At this point they seem best solved by postulating an unmarried sister or childless widowed sister-in-law of Col. John² Gressett.

The first problem is posed with the petition for land of one Lydia Gassett dated 4 March 1767.³⁷³ She asked for 200 acres and they were laid out for her in Craven County in the fork between Saluda and Broad River on Second Creek. This grant, dated 8 March 1768, is "bounty" land.³⁷⁴ She exhibited her memorial of this land 27 July 1768.³⁷⁵ It must be noted that the land is located northwest of the Save-Gotha settlement at a considerable distance from that of John Gressett.³⁷⁶ Thus it is impossible to be sure that this Lydia Gassett is the same person as the Lydia Gressett or Gressitt or Grissett who is recorded in census records and mentioned in land grants as a resident of Orangeburgh District.

The patterns of relationship hinted at by the Federal decennial censuses prior to 1850 are often vague and misleading, and never more so when, as in Orangeburgh County, land and court records have suffered wholesale destruction. However, apart from scattered references to her as a holder of adjacent land,³⁷⁷ in one of which she is called "Mrs."³⁷⁸ (without any necessary implication to be drawn therefrom that she was married), the census is all we

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have. These records show the following: in 1790, one male over 16 and five females;³⁶⁹ in 1800, one male 16-26 and one female over 45;³⁷⁰ in 1810 (as "L. Gressett") 1 male 10-16, 1 male 26-45 and 1 female over 45;³⁷¹ in 1820 (as "Liddy Grissett") 1 female over 45;³⁷² and in 1830, 1 female 50-60 and 1 female 80-90.³⁷³ The single woman of the same name appearing in 1840³⁷⁴ cannot be either of the ladies of 1830 if the age is correct, but is more likely than not the younger one.

From the foregoing it would appear that Lydia Gressett was born during the decade 1740-50 and is thus the contemporary of Col. John³⁷⁵ Gressett. It would also appear that she was a spinster or widow who had land and a home of her own and from time to time sheltered other members of her family. If she was identical to the Lydia Gassett who received bounty land in 1768, however, she could not have been the wife of Col. John, apart from the family tradition of the Funches marriage, because her husband would have taken the land for her in a larger allotment,³⁷⁶ and why did she take bounty land and he non-bounty land? It follows that she was most likely not his wife, but his sister or sister-in-law. Documents privately held or recorded in neighboring counties under the names of others may resolve the question.

The male 10-16 found in her household in 1810 may have been William Grisits, who appears as head of his own household in 1820, age 16-26, with a male and a female under 10 and a female over 45, in the same district.³⁷⁷ This William cannot be identified and may be the same person as the William Grissett who is in Orange Parish in 1840 age 40-50, with a wife in the same age group and seven persons of children's age, enumerated just before the younger Lydia Grissett.³⁷⁸ Thereafter he disappears prior to 1850 and there is no trace of him or of his family. He might be a son of (10) John Gressett, if there were any evidence that this John had a family in South Carolina; as it stands, his presence merely adds to the confusion.

7. WILLIAM³⁷⁹ GRESSETT or Grisset was not born in 1778 or 1779 as the family tradition indicates,³⁸⁰ such a birth date not only contradicts those census records in which he can be with some certainty identified, but also assumes that he would have been receiving grants of land before he was ten years of age. He was born earlier, prior to 1770 but very likely after 1765 when his father first applied for land in South Carolina. Nevertheless, that part of the tradition that identifies him as a son of "Col. Gressett" of Revolutionary War activity may be accepted. Some of those who recorded this tradition may have heard it from his own lips or from those of his sister Elizabeth Grimes.

There is the same difficulty about the date of his death as about that of his birth; family tradition gives his date of death as 1850,³⁸¹ yet neither the 1850 census schedules nor the mortality schedules for that year make any reference to him, nor is he mentioned in the 1840 census. It is likely that he died between 1830 and 1840.

Census records are less confusing than simply inadequate. In 1800 he is the head of the household, age 26-45, with two younger males 10-16 and 16-26 respectively (one probably his brother John), two females under 10 and one

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female 16-26, probably his first wife.¹⁶² In 1810 and 1820 he cannot be found at all, but in 1830 he reappears with his second wife and a large family of children: 2 males 0-5, 1 male 5-10, 1 male 10-15, 1 male 60-70, 1 female 0-5, 3 females 5-10, 1 female 30-40.¹⁶³ Missing pages or a temporary move elsewhere may account for the gap; he was a witness to the will of Thomas Gavin of Colleton District 14 March 1811,¹⁶⁴ as well as the earlier will of Tobias Hertzog of Orange County 10 May 1789.¹⁶⁵ Five land grants are recorded in the name of William Gressett or Grissett for land in Orangeburgh District, all in the same area, the first 7 April 1788 and the last 2 August 1819,¹⁶⁶ though it is possible that the later grants were for the benefit of the younger William Grissett who makes an appearance in 1820 and 1840, but not in 1830. The testimony of William Grissett in 1830 before the Equity Court concerning his brother John has already been noted.¹⁶⁷

No official record so far has supplied the name of the first wife of William Gressett, but there are clues to it. An account by Major David Gavin of a visit to relatives in Mississippi refers to his cousin Ch[arles] Gressett of Lauderdale County (25 June 1843),¹⁶⁸ and this relationship is confirmed by a reference in his diary: "My paternal grandfather Charles Gavin, paternal Aunt Gressett and other relatives are buried on Cattles Creek in Orange Parish."¹⁶⁹ Cattles Creek was the location of the first land grant to William Gressett. A conclusion may be drawn that the wife of William Gressett was the sister of Major Gavin's father and thus the daughter of Charles and Bathiah (Byrd) Gavin, early settlers in the same area. That Charles Gressett apparently bore the middle initial G., for Gavin, as did his nephew, a son of (11) William Grissett, and that a daughter of Catherine (Gressett) Tatum, a sister of (11) William and thus a daughter of (7) William,¹⁷⁰ bore the name Catherine Gavin (or Garvin) Tatum is some further evidence of this connection.¹⁷¹

The Gavin family is enumerated near that of Lydia and William Gressett in 1800¹⁷² and 1810¹⁷³ as is that of Christopher Tatum in 1820,¹⁷⁴ while Christopher Tatum, Bathya [or Bathiah] Gavin, and William Gressett are enumerated on the same page of the 1830 census for Greene County, Mississippi.¹⁷⁵

The first wife of William Gressett was probably named CATHERINE and was very likely the female age 16-26 recorded with him in 1800.¹⁷⁶ She probably bore other children to him whose names cannot as yet be identified.

Family tradition records the name of the wife, actually the second wife, of William Gressett as RACHEL RADCLIFFE and assign to her birth and death dates of 1795 and 1837 respectively and a marriage date of 1813.¹⁷⁷ If she was born in 1795 she was not age 40-50 in 1830,¹⁷⁸ but the known births of children into the fourth decade of the century would indicate that there was a census error here and that the traditional birth date is correct. There is no reason to doubt the date of marriage or death. As with the first wife, some of her children have not been identified.

It is curious that the family traditions recorded in South Carolina seem to have lost sight of those members of the family who at an early period removed themselves from the State; the result, in the absence of or destruc-

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tion of documentary evidence, is a family group based largely upon the circumstantial evidence previously discussed, but which nevertheless fits all the known facts and is not easily, if at all, reconciled with any other theory.

Children attributed to William and Catherine (Gavin) Gressett:

- 11 i. Catherine Gressett, b. 1797 (53 in 1850),¹⁰⁰ Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; liv. 1880, Jasper Co., Miss.;¹⁰¹ in 1819, 20 Christopher Tatum (b. 5 Feb. 1795, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 14 Dec. 1870, Jasper Co., Miss.).¹⁰² Issue.
- 12 ii. William¹ Gressett, b. 1801 (49 in 1850),¹⁰² Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 1875-78, Lauderdale Co., Miss.;¹⁰³ in Greene Co., Miss. by 1827,¹⁰⁴ and with a woman of his own age and a male child under 5 in that county in Federal census of 1830.¹⁰⁵ A resident of Jones Co., Miss. by 9 June 1836, when he purchased 50 acres,¹⁰⁶ and on that county's census 13 April 1837, with his wife and 4 males under 18,¹⁰⁷ and in 1841, with 8 whites in his household.¹⁰⁸ Enumerated in that county in 1840 with a woman of his own age, a woman 80-90 [Bathiah Gavin?], 5 males under 10 and 1 female under 5.¹⁰⁹ On Lauderdale Co. tax lists from 1846 to 1875,¹¹⁰ but not in Federal census of 1880 and surely dead by then. No will is recorded for him¹¹¹ but notes in the sectional index to conveyances with respect to lands owned by him indicate that the unindexed probate minutes may have particulars of a land distribution.¹¹² As noted, he has been identified as Catherine's brother.¹¹³ William was twice married. His first wife Syntha or Cynthia appears with him by name in census enumerations of 1850¹¹⁴ and 1860¹¹⁵ but her age cannot be determined from contradictory census entries. She was born in South Carolina and record of marriage, probably about 1827, must have been maintained privately, if at all. William's second wife, Martha Bush, married him 3 April 1865.¹¹⁶ She is with him in 1870 census¹¹⁷ and survived him, alive at least as late as 27 Jan. 1898, when she, together with J. C. Chambers, mortgaged property which had been owned by her husband during their lifetime.¹¹⁸ She is found in 1880 census in Lauderdale County¹¹⁹ but she is not found in Mississippi or Alabama in 1900. Issue by both marriages, including sons *Charles G.* [for Gavin?] and *William F.* [for Funches?], at home in 1850,¹²⁰ enumerated before and after their father in 1860,¹²¹ but not further traced. It is said that several sons of William fought for the Confederacy, and the mortality schedules for 1850 indicated that he lost two daughters in childhood.¹²²
- 13 iii. Charles G. [Gavin?] Gressett, b. 1810 (40 in 1850),¹²³ Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; in Perry Co., Miss. by 2 Nov. 1835,¹²⁴ on tax lists of Jasper Co., Miss. 1837-39,¹²⁵ in Lauderdale Co., Miss. in 1840 (age 20-30) with three females (1 under 5, 1 5-10, 1 15-20);¹²⁶ by 1850 in Newton Co., Miss.,¹²⁷ with eight other persons ranging in age from Elizabeth, age 20, to Elvina, age 1 month. He is in Newton Co. tax records prior to 1850 but neither he nor any member of his family is to be found there at any later date;¹²⁸ the loss of Newton, Jones and Jasper County records makes it very difficult to determine where he may have gone, or even the number and names of his wives. His relationship to Major David Gavin has already been noted.¹²⁹

Children of William and Rachel (Radcliffe) Gressett:

- 14 iv. [probably] John Daniel Gressett, b. 11 Jan. 1818, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 24 Nov. 1875, Comanche Co., Tex.; m. c. 1839, Jasper Co., Miss., Nancy Elizabeth Mabry (b. 31 Oct. 1829; d. Runnels Co., Tex., in her husband's lifetime). Six children, including *Rachael* (age 7, 1850) and *William Walter* (age 3, 1850).¹³⁰ While he might be the male infant under 10 enumerated with the "unidentified" William Grisits in 1820,¹³¹ he is more likely the male age 10-15 in the household of William and Rachel.¹³²
- 15 v. Susan Elizabeth Gressett, b. 1819, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 1877, Colleton Co., S.C.; m. Vincent Reeves (b. 1806; d. 1868, Colleton Co., S.C.).¹³³ Issue.

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Southern Gressitt/Grissett Families

171

- 16 vi. [probably] Samuel R[adeliffe] Gressett, b. 1826; d. 27 May 1880, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.³²⁶ His obituary mentions a large circle of relatives and friends both in and out of South Carolina, which would fit a son of William and Rachel. He might also have been the male age 10-15 enumerated in the household of the unidentified William Grisset of 1840.³²⁷
- 17 vii. Laurence F[unches?] Gressett, b. 1828 (22 in 1850);³²⁸ d. 10 Feb. 1892, Branchville, Orangeburg Co., S.C.³²⁹ Issue by wife Una (Unah, Umey).³³⁰
- 18 viii. Tatum Gressett, b. 13 March 1831, Reevesville, S.C.; d. 22 July 1864, Atlanta, Ga. (in Confederate service); m. 2 Jan. 1853 Caroline Reeves (b. 23 Dec. 1832, St. George, S.C.; d. there 22 July 1877). Issue, including a son *William F.* and a daughter *Rachel A.*³³¹ Many, if not all, of his descendants spell their name "Gressette" at this time.³³²
- 19 ix. Marion Shieutt Gressett, b. 1833, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 19 May 1908, Branchville, Orangeburg Co., S.C.³³³ Served in Company E, 1st S.C. Cavalry;³³⁴ graduate of S.C. Medical College, class of 1869,³³⁵ and physician serving his native community for many years. He m. (1) in 1869 Isabel Margaret Ott (b. 1830; d. 30 Dec. 1880).³³⁶ He m. (2) 18 Jan. 1882 Maggie Halford (b. Feb. 1855, Charleston, S.C.).³³⁷ who survived him but was dead before 19 May 1909, when the further administration of her late husband's estate was granted to Mrs. Isabelle Izlar.³³⁸ Issue by first wife, one dau., *Viola*, who m. 15 Jan. 1899, William A. Dukes.³³⁹

Before leaving this family, attention should be directed to the family of Lewis Robinson (age 55) and his wife Clarissa (age 52) of Newton County, Mississippi in 1850, both born in South Carolina. In their household was Esther Grisset, age 10, born in Mississippi.³⁴⁰ She was not the child of Charles G., who has a child Esther age 11 in his family, and there is no room for her in William's family. It is conceivable that she is an orphaned niece, and, keeping in mind that William and Cynthia also named a daughter Clarissa (Clearsey),³⁴¹ further investigation might show that Clarissa Robinson was the other daughter of William and Catherine (Gavin) Gressett born prior to 1800.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

322. Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 8:160.
323. *Ibid.*, 8:249. It is tempting to attempt some identification of this Thomas with the "wandering" Thomas Grasett of Barbados (see *NGSQ* 66:84), but, apart from the report of his death, the latter was born in 1715 and could not possibly have had an adult son of the same name by 1741. Another possibility is the unidentified male, age 21, in the 1715 census in the James Grasett household, *supra* (*NGSQ* 66:92) note 143. For Thomas Gressitt could have been born as early as 1694. Since James Grasett already had a son Thomas, such a connection would have to be left-handed. Or the young man might have been an orphaned nephew. A painstaking examination of early unindexed or badly indexed land and court records in Barbados might well produce more evidence.
324. Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 10:9, 22 Feb. 1752/3.
325. *Ibid.*, 11:528, 18 Nov. 1763.
326. Charles City Co., Va. Orders 1737-51, p. 142. This is misleadingly abstracted in *Va. Hist. Magazine* 21:86 as if it referred to the estate of a Thomas Gressitt.
327. *Ibid.*, p. 143, Oct. 1740 term. The witnesses to the will were Robert Emson and Matthias Ayres.
328. Northumberland Co., Va. Wills, 7:459.
329. *Ibid.*, 7:22.
330. Polly Cary Mason, comp., *Records of Colonial Gloucester County*, 2 vols. (Newport News, Va. 1946-48), 1:95. In 1783 there were 5 white persons in each household. *Va. Hist. Magazine* 12:14, 16.
331. *Heads of Families . . . 1790* (Virginia (Washington, D.C., 1908), p. 69. The name Peyton Gressitt appears after 1788 in county tax lists (at Va. State Library), which might be another clue to family connections. A Thomas Gressett, perhaps he of Gloucester County, was an applicant for Revolutionary War

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bounty lands. John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution* (Richmond, 1938), p. 327.

332. Emma R. Matheny and Helen K. Yates, comp., *Kingston Parish Register: Gloucester and Mathews Counties 1749-1827* (Richmond, 1963), p. 10. The page of the original register is 224.

333. *Tyler's Quarterly Magazine* 5:58, a fragment of the county clerk's return of marriage licenses issued during the period from 20 Oct. 1777 to 20 Oct. 1778.

334. Fourth Census . . . 1820: Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, p. 94.

335. *Ibid.*, p. 98. This was probably a younger brother rather than a son. There was a John R. Grissett aged 30-40 in same parish in 1830 whose relationship to James and John cannot be stated without further examination of parish records, which I have been unable to do. Fifth Census . . . 1830: Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, p. 81.

336. Tenth Census . . . 1880: Mississippi, Lauderdale Co., 11/96/10/27.

337. Lancaster Co., Va. Deeds and Wills, 13:109. The original probate is shown by Lancaster Co. Order Book, 6:135, 11 Apr. 1716, where Edward and Lisia King, the named executors, presented the will and it was ordered to be recorded.

338. Lancaster Co. Bonds, p. 31. The bond is published in Stratton Nottingham, *The Marriage License Bonds of Lancaster County* . . . (Onancock, Va., 1927), p. 13, but without the all important parental consent noted. Jerome Pasquet made John King, his "son-in-law" [stepson], residuary legatee in his will, made 24 Oct. 1728, probated 12 Feb. 1728/9. Lancaster Co., Va. Deeds and Wills, 12:83.

339. *Ibid.*, 11:187, dated 12 Nov. 1720, recorded 10 May 1721.

340. Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 8:228; she swore that he had died without leaving a will. The Chilton family has been studied by John Frederick Dorman, "The Chilton Families of Virginia and Maryland," *The Virginia Genealogist* 13:173-4, and I am indebted to Mr. Dorman for pointing out the significant Chilton-King-Gressett relationship.

341. Christ Church Parish Processioners' Returns, p. 68, of that date refer to land on Corotoman Neck belonging to "Ezekiel Chilton, orphan of Thos. Chilton dec'd under the Care of Thos Gress!"

342. Lancaster Co., Va. Deeds and Wills, 15:174.

343. Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 11:269.

344. Lancaster Co., Va. Deeds and Wills, 16:99, ordered to be recorded same day, Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 11:279.

345. Northumberland Co., Va. Order Book 1770-73, p. 276.

346. Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 11:432, 435.

347. *Ibid.*, 11:535.

348. S.C. (Colony) Council Journals, 32:599. Unless otherwise stated, all colonial and Revolutionary documents cited are in the custody of the Department of Archives and History of the State of South Carolina at Columbia, S.C.

349. S.C. (Colony) Plats, 16:228.

350. S.C. (Colony) Grants, 18:312.

351. S.C. (Colony) Memorials, 8:496.

352. On this point, see generally Robert H. Ackerman, *South Carolina Colonial Land Policies* (Columbia, S.C., 1974), pp. 106-11.

353. He was probably a son of George Grisset of Brunswick County. See Part 4 of this article at note 435.

354. S.C. (Colony) Mortgages, 3D:476, dated 17 Sept. 1774, recorded 23 Dec. 1774.

355. S.C. (Colony) Mortgages, 3E:304, dated 17 Oct. 1778, recorded 8 March 1779.

356. Charleston Dist. (S.C.) Deeds, K5:458, release dated 27 August 1784.

357. Manuscript Acts with Jury Lists, Act of 1783 (Ms. No. 1172), p. 5. Mary B. Warren, *supra* note 69a, p. 63, indexes his name as "Grissell."

358. The following accounts certify service or service and supplies requisitioned: Nos. 312 (Jacob Barr), 483 (John Bigbee), 1065 (Frederick Corn), 4145 (Henry Judy), 5336 (Henry Moore), 5338 (Samuel Moorner), 5634 (Jacob Ott), 6975 (Henry Shuler). The following accounts certify provisions requisitioned: Nos. 600 (Mrs. Ann Bonneau), 891 (Henry Bull), 892-A (William Bull), 1705 (Thomas Curtis), 3614 (Wm. Hill), 4756 (Peter Manigault), 5964 (Estate of Roger Pinkney), 6974 (George Shuler). John Gressett, Col. of Militia also signed a certificate of good conduct and character, together with a dozen others, for the benefit of John Harth (No. 3398-B). He is mentioned as colonel of militia in the claim of George Spinney (No. 7246), but did not sign or certify this claim.

359. Claim No. 3102. See A. S. Salley, Jr., ed., *Stub Entries for Indents Issued in Payment of Claims against South Carolina*, 12 vols. (Columbia, S.C., 1910-57), 7:252 (No. 17). The amount of the claim was £164/8/6-3/4. Upon receipt of his certificate Col. John Gressett endorsed an assignment on it to one Christopher Williman.

360. NSDAR #127,695 (Viola Elizabeth Dukes), #127,696 (Florence Eleanor Hunter), #406,757 (May Weeks Hester), #471,517 (Ann Gibson Gressette). Dr. Salley even certified the service of "William Gressett" as Colonel of the lower regiment of militia for Orangeburgh District, under date of 3 July 1916.

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for the application of Mrs. Hunter, although there is no reference in the Audited Accounts or in the Stub Indents to any service by a William Gressett or Grissett. Mrs. Hunter's cousin R. S. Weeks, Master for Dorchester County and a grandson of Elizabeth (Gressett) Grimes, whom he had known personally, spoke only of "Col. Gressette" but added "And I think Col. Gressette was also named William" in his supporting letter. It is clear that it was John, not any William, that served. This same tradition asserts that Col. Gressett was born in Germany, but there is no evidence to support such an assertion, though it is an undeniable fact that many Germans did settle in Orangeburgh District from the earliest days. As will be seen, the wife of Col. Gressett was likely of German origin, and the ancestral roots of the mother may have been transferred in the re-telling to the father. Bill Linder has pointed out to me the arrival in January 1766 of one Hans Gorric Grashert, a German age 19, from Rotterdam. S.C. (Colony) Council Journals, 32:719, 13 Feb. 1766. But since Col. John Gressett had applied for land some six months earlier, *supra* note 348, he was here before this Hans and they cannot be identical. Also, Alexander S. Salley, Jr., in *The History of Orangeburg County* (Orangeburg, 1898), p. 211, mentions the death of one Kilian Gassett on 11 March 1760, but no relationship has been shown between this person and any person bearing the name Gressett, Gresset or Grissett in any variation. He may, however, have been the father or other relative of one Francis Gassett, who was granted 100 acres in Saxe-Gotha Township on Congaree Creek. S.C. (Colony) Memorials, 13:29, 2 Jan. 1775, granted 25 May 1774.

361. S.C. (Colony) Council Journals, 30:291, 7 August 1764, to "Hans Adam Fontes." He received 100 acres north of William Hart's land in St. George, Dorchester Parish; the survey was certified 20 Dec. 1764. S.C. (Colony) Plats, 8:304. The grant is dated 21 June 1765, S.C. (Colony) Grants, 12:369, and the memorial was exhibited 15 July 1765, S.C. (Colony) Memorials, 6:503. He is not in the 1790 census and it does not appear that he settled in Orangeburgh District at any time.

362. S.C. (Colony) Council Journals, 30:245, 3 July 1764, to "Postian Fones." He received 150 acres surrounded by vacant land in St. George, Dorchester Parish; the survey was certified 15 August 1764. S.C. (Colony) Plats, 8:300. The grant is dated 21 June 1765, S.C. (Colony) Grants, 12:359, and the memorial was exhibited 15 July 1765, S.C. (Colony) Memorials, 6:504. Later he obtained 300 acres of non-bounty land in Berkeley County on the northeast side of the Pon Pon River; this grant adjoined other land already owned by him. S.C. (Colony) Plats, 15:236, dated 29 Dec. 1772, and grant issued 2 April 1773, S.C. (Colony) Grants, 29:18. In the 1790 census of Orangeburgh District (North Part) he appears as "Sabastian Funches" with three males over 16, 5 males under 16 and no females. *Heads of Families . . . 1790: South Carolina* (Washington, D.C., 1908), p. 96.

363. Sixth Census . . . 1840, South Carolina, Orangeburg Dist. (Orange Parish), p. 307.

364. Seventh Census . . . 1850: South Carolina, Orangeburg Dist. (Orange Parish), #803/804 (family of James Grimes).

365. With the single exception of her age as 16-26 in 1800, *infra* note 368; but perfect consistency would be too much to hope for in the mass of confusion and omission which characterizes the census records of this family.

366. S.C. (State) Plats, 43:200, dated 17 July 1812.

367. Commissioners' Deeds [and other proceedings], Equity Court, Orangeburg Dist., pp. 98-101, 130-44 at p. 140. The prior testimony had apparently been heard at the January 1830 term of the court. Mrs. Mary B. Warren has published an abstract of this material in *The Carolina Genealogist* under the heading of "County Records: Orangeburg County: Equity."

368. Second Census . . . 1800: South Carolina, Orangeburg Dist. ("Orange Between Edisto River Beaver Creek and four holes"), p. 545, line 10.

369. *Heads of Families . . . 1790: South Carolina* (Washington, D.C., 1908), p. 98 ("Lyddia Gressett"). There is no other person of that name in this census; the John Grissits of Spartanburg Dist. appear as "Grist" in other records and would appear to be of another family altogether.

370. Charleston Dist. Misc. Rec., EEEE:597, recorded 21 May 1813. "Winifred Gressett" of course calls to mind the mother of Col. John, and one wonders if the lady might have been sister of the wife of William Owens and daughter of Col. John.

371. S.C. (Colony) Council Journals, 33:60; S.C. (Colony) Plats, 16:37, certified 27 August 1767.

372. S.C. (Colony) Grants, 16:104.

373. S.C. (Colony) Memorials, 2:542.

374. See Lester J. Cappon *et al.*, ed., *Atlas of Early American History: The Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790* (Princeton, 1976), p. 6.

375. S.C. (State) Grants, 43(K-5):341, 5 Feb. 1798; 63(M-#):236, 2 Aug. 1819.

376. *Ibid.*, 63:236.

377. *Supra* note 368, line 11.

378. Third Census . . . 1810: South Carolina, Orangeburg Dist., p. 132.

379. Fourth Census . . . 1820: South Carolina, Orangeburg Dist. (Orangeburg Parish), p. 212.

380. Fifth Census . . . 1830: South Carolina, Orangeburg Dist. (Orangeburg Parish), p. 24.

381. Barnwell Dist., S.C., Wills, A:184. The loose papers (Bundle 23, package 5) indicate that Charles Gavin, named executor, declined to qualify. The will was proved by oath of William Grissett 19 Nov. 1814.

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382. Proved 22 Nov. 1790. O.H.S. Doc. Misc. No. 93, a:290.
383. S.C. (State) Grants, 200 acres, 7 April 1788, 22:497; 58 acres, 7 April 1794, 36:248; 38 acres, 5 Feb. 1798, 43:341; 676 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, 6 April 1818, 62:51; 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, 2 Aug. 1819, 63:236. The plats show that his neighbors included Christopher Tatum, S.C. (State) Plats, 22:200, 31 March 1788, as well as Hezekiah Byrd, Lydia Grissett, and James Grimes, 46:139, 3 April 1818.
384. *Major David Gavin's Horseback Ride, St. George to Mississippi and Return in 1843*, 25 June 1843, p. 23 (courtesy Richard S. Lackey, Forest, Miss.).
385. David Gavin, *Diary* (ms. Southern Hist. Coll., Univ. of N.C.), 1:199, 21 May 1860.
386. Clara A. Tatum Hardy, a descendant of Christopher and Catherine (Gressett) Tatum, stated in 1940 that William was brother to Catherine (courtesy Richard S. Lackey, Forest, Miss.).
387. Born 21 May 1831, died 8 Nov. 1864, m. 10 Jan. 1850 (as first wife) Lewis Linder. See generally Bill R. Linder, *Christopher Tatum of Orangeburgh District, South Carolina* . . . (Vienna, Va., 1975).
388. Fifth Census . . . 1830: Mississippi, Greene Co., p. 171.
389. Seventh Census . . . 1850: Mississippi, Jasper Co., p. 31R, #12/13.
390. Tenth Census . . . 1880: Mississippi, Jasper Co., p. 50.
391. On Christopher Tatum, his life and family, see Linder, *supra* note 387, *passim*, and sources cited.
392. Seventh Census . . . 1850: Mississippi, Lauderdale Co., p. 396, #992/1008. Ages reported in 1860 and 1870 are not precisely congruent; as he aged, William Grissett seems to have become younger (56 in 1860, 67 in 1870).
393. Very likely dead by 1878, since material pertaining to the distribution of his lands may be found in the probate minutes covering the period 1863-78, *infra* note 401.
394. Greene Co., Miss. tax rolls, 1827, p. 4, 1830, p. 3 (Miss. Dept. of Arch. and Hist., Jackson, Miss.).
395. Augusta, Miss. Cash Entry, 9 June 1836, No. 4306, William Grissett.
396. Jones Co., Miss. State census, 1837, p. 1, line 27.
397. Jones Co., Miss., State Census, 1841, col. 3, line 14.
398. Sixth Census . . . 1840: Jones County, p. 306, line 7 (as William Grissett).
399. Lauderdale Co. tax lists, 1846, p. 9; 1848, p. 8; 1856, p. 13; 1860, p. 13; 1864, p. 6; 1868, p. 12; 1875, p. 26. There is no reference in 1870 and, of course, many of the years are missing.
400. Communication from office of Probate Judge, Lauderdale Co., Meridian, Miss., 28 Oct. 1977.
401. Communication from Richard S. Lackey, Forest, Miss., 8 May 1978.
402. Eighth Census . . . 1860: Mississippi, Lauderdale Co., pp. 154-55, #1087/1063.
403. Marriages, Lauderdale Co., Miss., 1:257.
404. Ninth Census . . . 1870: Mississippi, Lauderdale Co., p. 92, #93/93.
405. Lauderdale Co. Deeds 35:324. She had joined in at least two conveyances with William Grissett during his lifetime: M:489, dated 18 Oct. 1867, recorded 4 July 1868 (to Isaac G. Suttles), and R-535, dated 20 Jan. 1873, recorded 22 May 1873 (to W. W. Welch). Although in 1850 census William is recorded as illiterate, he signs his name here and in connection with marriage license and bond, and spelling which he uses is "Grissett."
406. Tenth Census . . . 1880: Mississippi, Lauderdale Co., #11/97/28/7.
407. *Supra* note 402, #1086/1062, 1088/1064 respectively.
408. South Carolina Grissett, age 3, d. Sept. 1849, and Clearsey H. Grissett, age 8/12, d. Oct. 1849. Mortality Schedules, Seventh Census . . . 1850: Mississippi, Lauderdale Co., abstracted by Irene S. Gillis, comp., *Mississippi 1850 Mortality Schedules* (Shreveport, La., 1973), p. 22.
409. Seventh Census . . . 1850: Mississippi, Newton Co., p. 157R, #23/23.
410. Augusta, Miss., Cash Entry, 2 Nov. 1835, No. 2475, and 1 June 1836, No. 4199. It is significant that Christopher Tatum also purchased lands in this range at about this time. *Supra* note 387 at p. 5. The lands were in Jasper County.
411. Jasper Co., Miss. tax rolls, 1837, p. 4, 1838, p. 5, 1839, p. 6.
412. Sixth Census . . . 1840: Mississippi, Lauderdale Co., p. 59, line 14. See also Lauderdale Co., Miss. tax rolls, 1840, p. 15. His is last name on roll and one wonders whether he was not a recent arrival.
413. Newton Co., Miss. tax rolls, 1842, p. 3, line 17; 1843, p. 3, line 14; 1847, p. 5, line 14. In list for 1841 (p. 3, line 27) one reads "Gressett" "Giv. by R." which I have not been able to interpret. He is also in State Census for 1845 in Newton Co. with 2 males and 4 females (p. 1, line 5).
414. Seventh Census . . . 1850: Mississippi, Newton Co., p. 160R. I am indebted to William Lee Jordan III, of Fort Worth, Texas, descendant of John Daniel Gressett, for information concerning this family.
415. Seventh Census . . . 1850: South Carolina, Colleton Co., St. George's Parish, p. 242, #128/128; NSDAR #127,696, Florence Eleanor Hunter, *supra* note 360. Mrs. Hunter is daughter of Vincent and Susan Elizabeth (Gressett) Reeves. However, the marriage date of 1828 ascribed to them is surely a copyist's error. Even 1838 is perhaps too early. Also, birthdates given do not agree with the census ages; I have made the perhaps rash assumption that Mrs. Hunter knew better than the enumerator how old her parents were.
416. Seventh Census . . . 1850: South Carolina, Mortality Schedules, p. 407; *Southern Christian Advocate*, Vol. 14, no. 8, p. 3 (21 June 1850), obituary (which does not give his percentage).
417. Seventh Census . . . 1850: South Carolina, Colleton Co., St. George's Parish, p. 242, #132/132.

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Southern Gressitt/Grissett Families

175

418. *Orangeburg T. & D.*, 17 Feb. 1892, obituary (identified as brother of Dr. M. S. Gressett and death as having taken place the previous Wednesday).
419. Eighth Census . . . 1860: South Carolina, Colleton Co., St. George's Parish, p. 336, #177/163; Tenth Census . . . 1880: South Carolina, Colleton Co., p. 502, #9/111/27/3.
420. Eighth Census . . . 1860: South Carolina, Colleton Co., St. George's Parish, p. 336, #176/162; NSDAR #406,757 (May Weeks Hester), *supra* note 360 (a great-grand-daughter).
421. Mrs. William N. Gressette (St. Matthews, S.C.) to the author, 9 Nov. 1977.
422. *Orangeburg T. & D.*, 22 May 1908 (obituary).
423. C. A. Evans, *Confederate Military History* (Atlanta, 1899), 5:609 (with, however, certain inaccuracies in birth and other data).
424. *Medical College of the State of South Carolina, List of Graduates for 1869* (Charleston, 1869).
425. *Supra* note 422; Tenth Census . . . 1880: South Carolina, Orangeburg Co., p. 41, #19/137/4/33, though, as usual, ages given do not coincide with other data. See also NSDAR #127,695 (Viola Elizabeth Dukes), *supra* note 360.
426. Twelfth Census . . . 1900: South Carolina, Orangeburg Co., #39/49/2/60. This entry gives Dr. Marion Gressett's birthdate as April 1838; April is probably correct, 1838 is certainly not, since his mother had died the year before.
427. Letters of Administration, 19 May 1908, from files of Judge of Probate, Orangeburg Co., S.C.
428. *Southern Christian Advocate*, 2 Feb. 1899 (marriage notice).
429. Seventh Census . . . 1850: Mississippi, Newton Co., p. 157, #30/30.

(To be continued)

MAGRUDER—SUIT FAMILY BIBLE RECORD

This family record appears in a Bible (New York: American Bible Society, 1831) in the possession of S. Franklin Barber of St. Mary's County, Maryland, and has been transcribed by the contributor, Mrs. Charles B. Grace of Charlotte Hall, Maryland.

Haswell/Hazel Magruder, son of William and Elizabeth, b. 18 Sept. 1807; d. 11 Oct. 1869 aged 62 yrs.; m. 5 July 1832, Adaline Elizabeth Boyd (b. 13 Mch. 1816; d. 22 Dec. 1864 in 49th yr.). Children: *Mary Caroline*, b. 1 May 1835 [see below]. *Adaline Elizabeth*, b. 11 May 1837; d. 20 Feb. 1844. *Richard Boyd*, b. 10 Apr. 1840; d. 19 Feb. 1844. *John Thomas*, b. 22 May 1843; d. 20 June 1853 aged 10 yrs. 20 days. *Isabella Victoria*, b. 12 Apr. 1845; d. 25 Sept. 1849. *Perus*, b. 28 Mch. 184[?]; d. 3 Aug. 1855. *William Haswell*, b. 28 Sept. 1847; d. 12 Sept. 1848. *Jane*, b. 2 Sept. 1849; m. 4 Jan. 1871, John S. Adams. *William Haswell*, b. 10 Mch. 1852; d. 28 Dec. 1862 aged 10 yrs. 9 mos. 18 days. *Christenia/Christina D.*, b. 16 Jan. 1855; m. 26 Jan. 1875, Henry D. Renninger. *Fielder Samuel*, b. 27 June 1857; d. 1 Apr. 1859 aged 21 mos. 4 days. *Samuel Fielder*, b. 10 July 1860.

Elizabeth, wife of late William Magruder, d. 15 Mch. 1857.

Jane Magruder, d. 3 Feb. 1838 in 17th yr.

Alfred Magruder, murdered in the Church yard by Clement T. Hillary, 28 Nov. 1840.

Fielder Magruder, Sr., d. Aug. 1840.

Edward Magruder, Sr., d. 12 Aug. 1842.

James Adolphus Suit, b. 30 May 1837; d. 25 July 1903; m. 11 Feb. 1862, Mary C[aroline] Magruder (b. 1 May 1835; d. 8 Nov. 1919 at res. of daughter, interment Rock Creek cemetery). Children: *Nathaniel*, b. 22 Mch. 1863; d. 17 Nov. 1863 aged 8 mos. *Mary Adeline*, b. 13 May 1865. *James Alexander Young*, b. 18 Aug. 1870. *Agnes Blanche*, b. 16 Jan. 1875. *Thomas Magruder*, b. 10 Jan. 1878; d. 12 Feb. 1922 at Garfield Hospital, husband of Margaret A.

James Collier Suit, b. 16 Sept. 1902.

William Suit, m. 3 Feb. 1859, Mary Frances S[-?]-kles.

Benjamin T. Boyd, d. 11 Sept. 1843 aged 29 yrs. Caroline H. Boyd, d. 3 Sept. 1856 in 39th yr.

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SOUTHERN GRESSITT/GRISSETT FAMILIES

(Continued from Volume 66, page 96)

By NEIL D. THOMPSON, F.A.S.G.

The destruction or disappearance of many relevant records from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina counties, and the inadequate or nonexistent indices for others, causes any account of these families to resemble a jigsaw puzzle from which time and chance have taken too many key pieces. Almost every identification or relationship proposed here is tentative and subject to correction or improvement either by reference to newly discovered sources, such as hitherto unknown family papers or Bible records, or to a better reading of what has already been examined.

1. THOMAS¹ GRESSIT. For chronological reasons, if no others, the family of Gressit (sometimes Gressits or Gressett) of Lancaster County, Virginia, first attracts attention. Thomas Gressit brought in a Negro boy named Charles to have his age determined at the Lancaster County court held 12 February 1736/7.³²² Earlier references to him in this or any other Virginia county have yet to be found. It does not appear that he owned or patented any land, yet in the lists of freeholders taken 18 November 1741 in the county the name Thomas Gresset appears twice, doubtless father and son.³²³ One of these persons was a juryman in the same court ten years later.³²⁴ There is also a record of an attachment in an action brought by Thomas Gressit against Robert Edmunds which was dismissed in 1763.³²⁵

Thomas Gressit was related to one JAMES GRESSITS of Charles City County, Virginia, who was his early contemporary. The petition of John Donaldson for letters of administration on the estate of this James Gressits was dismissed at the August 1740 term of court.³²⁶ Soon after, Thomas

lost, and no inventory was ordered to be filed, nor do there seem to be any other references to the family in the limited group of surviving Charles City County records. Thus Thomas may have been son, brother, or even father of James. The fact that a member of the powerful Carter family was surety might provide a lead for further investigation.

At the time that Thomas Gressit was carrying on proceedings against Robert Edmonds he had apparently already moved to Northumberland County, Virginia, where he witnessed the will of George Payne of Wicocomico Parish 12 May 1762; this will referred to Payne's landholdings in Lancaster County.³²⁸ His own short will, dated 13 December 1766, was proved 9 February 1767 in Northumberland County.³²⁹ It is signed by mark and the clerk spells the name "Grisitt." Everything is left to the testator's daughter Elizabeth Cambell or Campbell but no executor is named; William Cambell had letters of administration. Apparently Thomas Gressit was living with this daughter when he died.

There was also a family or group of families of the name in Gloucester County, Virginia. Almost all the county's pre-Revolutionary records are lost, but the tax lists reveal in 1770 James Gresset with 75 acres and John Gressitt with 85 acres, while Frances Gresset appears with no identification at all. By 1782 James Gressitt's holdings have expanded to 116 acres and John Gressitt's, in Petsworth parish and with one male in the household, to 252 acres.³³⁰ The 1784 lists give John (5 whites), Thomas (1 white), and James (3 whites) Gressitt, all of Petsworth parish.³³¹ That the family was in the county prior to 1770 is shown by one of the two marriage records relating to it which have so far survived, James Grisset to Elizabeth (the surname is gone), 25 August 1762 in Kingston parish (now in Mathews County).³³² A marriage license was issued to William Pollard Jr. and Elizabeth Gressitts in 1777/8 in Gloucester County;³³³ the family of Pollard is also found in Lancaster County. Later census records and tax lists indicate that the family remained and multiplied in Gloucester County. Doubtless they moved south and west as well. The James Grisset of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana in 1820, aged over 45, with a younger wife and five sons,³³⁴ and the John Grisset of the same parish, aged 26-45, with six children under 16 in the household,³³⁵ give indication of being derived from this family. The David Gresitt of Lauderdale County, Mississippi, aged 61 in 1880, whose father was born in Virginia, although living among descendants of the Orangeburg County, South Carolina branch, cannot be placed with them and may also be a descendant of the Gloucester County branch.³³⁶ In any event, it is hoped that documentary evidence will appear to inform us whether this family is or is not derived from the Lancaster County family.

Thomas Gressit was married at least twice. The name of his first wife is unknown. His second wife was WINIFRED (KING) CHILTON, daughter of William King and widow of Thomas Chilton of Lancaster County. The will of her father, dated 25 January 1715/16 and proved 11 April 1716, but not

recorded until 11 August 1739, mentioned Gressits, the names of all his children, including Winifred. Fortunately, the relationship is proved by two documents, the first being the marriage license bond for Thomas Chilton and Winifred King, dated 14 January 1723/4, of which Jerome Pasquet was a bondsman and upon which is endorsed the consent to the marriage of the bride's mother, Elesbee Pasquet.³³⁸ The second is a release of dower rights by Jerome and Elisia Pasquett to George Brent, all of Christ Church parish, in a parcel of land formerly owned by her husband William King.³³⁹ Since Winifred had at least one child by her second husband, and her mother's consent to the first marriage was required, she probably married young. Her birth may be assigned to about 1705.

Thomas Chilton was dead shortly before 8 December 1738.³⁴⁰ His widow remarried before, probably several years before, 1 March 1743/4.³⁴¹ Since her son Ezekiel Chilton did not make any bequest to her in his will, dated 9 January 1754 and proved 19 July 1754 in Lancaster County,³⁴² it is likely that she was dead by that date. She is not mentioned in the will of her husband.³²⁹

Children of Thomas Gressit by unknown first wife:

- 2 i. Thomas² Gressit, of age on 18 November 1741;³²³ d. unm. prior to 20 June 1760, when his father was granted letters of administration on his estate.³⁴³ His inventory reveals limited assets: a horse and saddle, clothing and razor. His father signed it by mark 18 July 1760.³⁴⁴
- 3 ii. Elizabeth (Eliza) Gressit, m. William Cambell of Northumberland Co., Va.: sole legatee in her father's will³²⁹ and administratrix of the estate of her husband William Cambell 13 April 1772.³⁴⁵
- 4 iii. [perhaps] Abimidon Gressit, defendant in an action brought against him in Lancaster County court by Henry Carter Jr. 19 Nov. 1762 which was dismissed 17 Dec. 1762.³⁴⁶ No other record found, and the reading of the Christian name is tentative.

Children of Thomas and Winifred (King) Gressit:

- + 5 iv. John Gressit, b. c. 1742, Lancaster Co., Va.
- + 6 v. [probably] Lydia Gressit, b. c. 1745, Lancaster Co., Va.

5. Colonel JOHN² GRESSETT (Gressitt) appears at least twice in Lancaster County records. He is mentioned in the will of Ezekiel Chilton³⁴² as his "brother-in-law" and son of Ezekiel's mother Winifred, brother-in-law here having its meaning of step-brother, and David Galloway commenced an action against him in the county court 20 January 1764, only to have it adjourned to the following term because the defendant was not found in the county.³⁴⁷ There is no further record of the action or of John Gressett in Lancaster County.

John Gressit petitioned for 100 acres of land in South Carolina 3 September 1765.³⁴⁸ Apparently he took some time to obtain the survey, for the initial precept was prolonged and the survey, for 100 acres of land in the fork of the Santee and Wateree rivers, was certified only 15 December 1768.³⁴⁹ The grant was made 2 June 1769 to John Gresset³⁵⁰ and he exhibited his me-

morial 16 September 1769 as John Gressett.³⁵¹ It is quickly apparent that spelling will be a poor guide to the identification of members of this family.

While neither these nor any other records pertaining to John Gressett of South Carolina identify him as the John Gressett who was not found in Lancaster County, Virginia, the year before, I am prepared to make the identification on the ground, first, that the John Gressitt of Lancaster County is not otherwise accountable for, second, that the age fits, and third, that the grant was not bounty land, indicating that the grantee had come in from another colony rather than from abroad.³⁵² The John Gressitt of Petsworth Parish, Gloucester County, was of similar age and remained there;³³⁰ a John Grissett, planter, in Brunswick County, North Carolina in 1775, is also otherwise accounted for;³⁵³ the pattern of movement was a normal one for a young man whose fortune at home obviously left much to be desired. In the absence of clear documentary proof, likely to be forever denied us, circumstantial evidence is the best available. Here, as elsewhere, the reader must draw his own conclusions.

There are two transactions in slaves, dated 1774³⁵⁴ and 1778³⁵⁵ respectively, and a lease and release which show that John Gressett of the parish of St. Mathews, carpenter, had acquired other lands as well, for this last transaction, in which no wife participated, involved 700 acres in the Parish of St. Johns, Berkeley County, originally granted to John Palmer 7 October 1772 and now conveyed by John Gressett to John Simmerman and Henry Kuhn 26 August 1784.³⁵⁶ As John Grissett this landowner was a member of the Orangeburgh District grand jury in 1783.³⁵⁷

The audited accounts maintained by the State's Treasury Department show that John Gressett served as a colonel and lieutenant colonel in the militia, stationed in Orangeburgh District.³⁵⁸ He claimed and received compensation for services performed in 1781 and 1782 by certificate dated 14 January 1785.³⁵⁹ Family tradition among his descendants has kept alive the memory of this service, but it is unfortunate that at some point Col. John Gressett became confused with his son William in the tradition, with the result that an entirely mythical "Col. William Gressett" has usurped the place of Col. John Gressett in various published lineages.³⁶⁰ That same family tradition says that he died during or soon after the war: the documentary evidence would make "soon after," between 1785 and 1790, a fair description. If he left a will, or a record of the administration of an estate, it has been lost.

From the fact that he received 100 acres of land on coming to South Carolina in 1765, it may be deduced that he was then single.³⁵² The approximate ages of his children indicate that he married soon after his arrival. Family tradition, and that source alone, provides the name of his wife as ELIZABETH FUNCHES.³⁶⁰ This may well be correct, for Hans Adam Funtius³⁶¹ and Sebastian Funtius³⁶² (also Fontius, Fonses, Fontious and many other imaginative variants) had petitioned for bounty land as early as 1764, and either might have been the father of the wife of Col. John Gressett. Whoever his wife may have been, she was very likely dead prior to 1784, since she did not join in the lease and release executed by her husband that year.³⁵⁶

Children of John and Elizabeth (Funches) Gressett:

- i. William² Gressett, b. 1765-70, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C.
- 7 ii. [perhaps] Lydia Gressett, b. 1765-70, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C.; living there alone
8 aged 70-80 in 1840;³⁶³ is most easily placed as an unmarried daughter of this couple.
- 9 iii. Elizabeth Gressett, b. 1771, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C.;³⁶⁴ m. James Grimes, Sr., of that District, who was dead by 1840 when his widow was recorded (age 60-70) with her son James (age 30-40).³⁶³ Age 79, she was living with him and his family in 1850. The family traditions assign her a birth date of 1779 or 1780,³⁶⁰ but this is out of line with all the census evidence, which is for once internally consistent.³⁶⁵ Her husband had a grant of state lands 31 December 1811 next to Gressett-owned lands.³⁶⁶
- 10 iv. John Gressett, b. c. 1774, Orangeburgh Dist., S.C., is identified as a brother of William Grissett in testimony by the latter given in an equity proceeding and recorded at a re-trial of the proceeding in January 1832.³⁶⁷ One party had asserted that John Grisset was a witness to a bill of sale for four slaves from William Byrd to Joseph Ratcliffe dated 30 March 1810 (the pleading alleged an 1807 date but the recitation of the bill itself in evidence corrects this), but William testified that "John Grisset, who is my brother," was not in the State at the time the bill of sale was executed, and indeed the latter's name does not seem to appear on the bill. It is possible to read into the testimony the implication that John was still alive, but William nowhere says this in so many words. He is most likely that male aged 16-26 in the household of William Grissitt in 1800;³⁶⁸ he, rather than his elder brother, may be the male over 16 recorded in the household of Lydia Gressitt in 1790.³⁶⁹ He does not seem to have had any land grants and nothing is known about his family or further whereabouts. It may be that the deed of gift of William Owens of Charleston District (St. James' Parish) dated 18 February 1813 to his "sister Winifred Gressett" and others refers to the wife of John the younger.³⁷⁰

6. LYDIA GRESSETT raises a series of problems in identification and relationship which are crucial to the welding of this pedigree. At this point they seem best solved by postulating an unmarried sister or childless widowed sister-in-law of Col. John² Gressett.

The first problem is posed with the petition for land of one Lydia Gassett dated 4 March 1767.³⁷¹ She asked for 200 acres and they were laid out for her in Craven County in the fork between Saluda and Broad River on Second Creek. This grant, dated 8 March 1768, is "bounty" land.³⁷² She exhibited her memorial of this land 27 July 1768.³⁷³ It must be noted that the land is located northwest of the Saxe-Gotha settlement at a considerable distance from that of John Gressett.³⁷⁴ Thus it is impossible to be sure that this Lydia Gassett is the same person as the Lydia Gressett or Gressitt or Grissett who is recorded in census records and mentioned in land grants as a resident of Orangeburgh District.

The patterns of relationship hinted at by the Federal decennial censuses prior to 1850 are often vague and misleading, and never more so when, as in Orangeburg County, land and court records have suffered wholesale destruction. However, apart from scattered references to her as a holder of adjacent land,³⁷⁵ in one of which she is called "Mrs."³⁷⁶ (without any necessary implication to be drawn therefrom that she was married), the census is all we

have. These records show the following: in 1790, one male over 16 and five females;³⁶⁹ in 1800, one male 16-26 and one female over 45;³⁷⁷ in 1810 (as "L. Gressett") 1 male 10-16, 1 male 26-45 and 1 female over 45;³⁷⁸ in 1820 (as "Liddy Grissett") 1 female over 45;³⁷⁹ and in 1830, 1 female 50-60 and 1 female 80-90.³⁸⁰ The single woman of the same name appearing in 1840³⁸³ cannot be either of the ladies of 1830 if the age is correct, but is more likely than not the younger one.

From the foregoing it would appear that Lydia Gressett was born during the decade 1740-50 and is thus the contemporary of Col. John² Gressett. It would also appear that she was a spinster or widow who had land and a home of her own and from time to time sheltered other members of her family. If she was identical to the Lydia Gassett who received bounty land in 1768, however, she could not have been the wife of Col. John, apart from the family tradition of the Funches marriage, because her husband would have taken the land for her in a larger allotment,³⁵² and why did she take bounty land and her non-bounty land? It follows that she was most likely not his wife, but his sister or sister-in-law. Documents privately held or recorded in neighboring counties under the names of others may resolve the question.

The male 10-16 found in her household in 1810 may have been William Grisits, who appears as head of his own household in 1820, age 16-26, with a male and a female under 10 and a female over 45, in the same district.³⁷⁹ This William cannot be identified and may be the same person as the William Grissett who is in Orange Parish in 1840 age 40-50, with a wife in the same age group and seven persons of children's age, enumerated just before the younger Lydia Grissett.³⁶³ Thereafter he disappears prior to 1850 and there is no trace of him or of his family. He might be a son of (10) John Gressett, if there were any evidence that this John had a family in South Carolina; as it stands, his presence merely adds to the confusion.

7. WILLIAM³ GRESSETT or Grisset was not born in 1778 or 1779 as the family tradition indicates;³⁶⁰ such a birth date not only contradicts those census records in which he can be with some certainty identified, but also assumes that he would have been receiving grants of land before he was ten years of age. He was born earlier, prior to 1770 but very likely after 1765 when his father first applied for land in South Carolina. Nevertheless, that part of the tradition that identifies him as a son of "Col. Gressett" of Revolutionary War activity may be accepted. Some of those who recorded this tradition may have heard it from his own lips or from those of his sister Elizabeth Grimes.

There is the same difficulty about the date of his death as about that of his birth; family tradition gives his date of death as 1850,³⁶⁰ yet neither the 1850 census schedules nor the mortality schedules for that year make any reference to him, nor is he mentioned in the 1840 census. It is likely that he died between 1830 and 1840.

Census records are less confusing than simply inadequate. In 1800 he is the head of the household, age 26-45, with two younger males 10-16 and 16-26 respectively (one probably his brother John), two females under 10 and one

female 16-26, probably his first wife.³⁶⁸ In 1810 and 1820 he cannot be found at all, but in 1830 he reappears with his second wife and a large family of children: 2 males 0-5, 1 male 5-10, 1 male 10-15, 1 male 60-70, 1 female 0-5, 3 females 5-10, 1 female 30-40.³⁸⁰ Missing pages or a temporary move elsewhere may account for the gap: he was a witness to the will of Thomas Gavin of Colleton District 14 March 1811,³⁸¹ as well as the earlier will of Tobias Hertzog of Orange County 10 May 1789.³⁸² Five land grants are recorded in the name of William Gressett or Grissett for land in Orangeburgh District, all in the same area, the first 7 April 1788 and the last 2 August 1819,³⁸³ though it is possible that the later grants were for the benefit of the younger William Grissett who makes an appearance in 1820 and 1840, but not in 1830. The testimony of William Grissett in 1830 before the Equity Court concerning his brother John has already been noted.³⁶⁷

No official record so far has supplied the name of the first wife of William Gressett, but there are clues to it. An account by Major David Gavin of a visit to relatives in Mississippi refers to his cousin Ch[arles] Gressett of Lauderdale County (25 June 1843),³⁸⁴ and this relationship is confirmed by a reference in his diary: "My paternal grandfather Charles Gavin, paternal Aunt Gressett and other relatives are buried on Cattles Creek in Orange Parish. . ."³⁸⁵ Cattles Creek was the location of the first land grant to William Gressett. A conclusion may be drawn that the wife of William Gressett was the sister of Major Gavin's father and thus the daughter of Charles and Bathiah (Byrd) Gavin, early settlers in the same area. That Charles Gressett apparently bore the middle initial G., for Gavin, as did his nephew, a son of (11) William Grissett, and that a daughter of Catherine (Gressett) Tatum, a sister of (11) William and thus a daughter of (7) William,³⁸⁶ bore the name Catherine Gavin (or Garvin) Tatum is some further evidence of this connection.³⁸⁷

The Gavin family is enumerated near that of Lydia and William Gressett in 1800³⁶⁸ and 1810³⁷⁸ as is that of Christopher Tatum in 1820,³⁷⁹ while Christopher Tatum, Bathyra [or Bathiah] Gavin, and William Gressett are enumerated on the same page of the 1830 census for Greene County, Mississippi.³⁸⁸

The first wife of William Gressett was probably named CATHERINE and was very likely the female age 16-26 recorded with him in 1800.³⁶⁸ She probably bore other children to him whose names cannot as yet be identified.

Family tradition records the name of the wife, actually the second wife, of William Gressett as RACHEL RADCLIFFE and assigns to her birth and death dates of 1795 and 1837 respectively and a marriage date of 1813.³⁶⁰ If she was born in 1795 she was not age 40-50 in 1830,³⁸⁰ but the known births of children into the fourth decade of the century would indicate that there was a census error here and that the traditional birth date is correct. There is no reason to doubt the date of marriage or death. As with the first wife, some of her children have not been identified.

It is curious that the family traditions recorded in South Carolina seem to have lost sight of those members of the family who at an early period removed themselves from the State: the result, in the absence of or destruc-

tion of documentary evidence, is a family group based largely upon the circumstantial evidence previously discussed, but which nevertheless fits all the known facts and is not easily, if at all, reconciled with any other theory.

Children attributed to William and Catherine (Gavin) Gressett:

- 11 i. Catherine Gressett, b. 1797 (53 in 1850),³⁸⁹ Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; liv. 1880, Jasper Co., Miss.;³⁹⁰ m. 1819–20 Christopher Tatum (b. 5 Feb. 1795, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 14 Dec. 1870, Jasper Co., Miss).³⁹¹ Issue.
- 12 ii. William⁴ Gressett, b. 1801 (49 in 1850),³⁹² Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 1875–78, Lauderdale Co., Miss.;³⁹³ in Greene Co., Miss. by 1827,³⁹⁴ and with a woman of his own age and a male child under 5 in that county in Federal census of 1830.³⁹⁵ A resident of Jones Co., Miss. by 9 June 1836, when he purchased 50 acres,³⁹⁶ and on that county's census 13 April 1837, with his wife and 4 males under 18,³⁹⁷ and in 1841, with 8 whites in his household.³⁹⁷ Enumerated in that county in 1840 with a woman of his own age, a woman 80–90 [Bathiah Gavin?], 5 males under 10 and 1 female under 5.³⁹⁸ On Lauderdale Co. tax lists from 1846 to 1875,³⁹⁹ but not in Federal census of 1880 and surely dead by then. No will is recorded for him⁴⁰⁰ but notes in the sectional index to conveyances with respect to lands owned by him indicate that the unindexed probate minutes may have particulars of a land distribution.⁴⁰¹ As noted, he has been identified as Catherine's brother.³⁸⁶ William was twice married. His first wife Syntha or Cynthia appears with him by name in census enumerations of 1850³⁹² and 1860⁴⁰² but her age cannot be determined from contradictory census entries. She was born in South Carolina and record of marriage, probably about 1827, must have been maintained privately, if at all. William's second wife, Martha Bush, married him 3 April 1865.⁴⁰³ She is with him in 1870 census⁴⁰⁴ and survived him, alive at least as late as 27 Jan. 1898, when she, together with J. C. Chambers, mortgaged property which had been owned by her husband during their lifetime.⁴⁰⁵ She is found in 1880 census in Lauderdale County⁴⁰⁶ but she is not found in Mississippi or Alabama in 1900. Issue by both marriages, including sons *Charles G.* [for Gavin?] and *William F.* [for Funches?], at home in 1850,³⁹² enumerated before and after their father in 1860,⁴⁰⁷ but not further traced. It is said that several sons of William fought for the Confederacy, and the mortality schedules for 1850 indicated that he lost two daughters in childhood.⁴⁰⁸
- 13 iii. Charles G. [Gavin?] Gressett, b. 1810 (40 in 1850),⁴⁰⁹ Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; in Perry Co., Miss. by 2 Nov. 1835;⁴¹⁰ on tax lists of Jasper Co., Miss. 1837–39;⁴¹¹ in Lauderdale Co., Miss. in 1840 (age 20–30) with three females (1 under 5, 1 5–10, 1 15–20);⁴¹² by 1850 in Newton Co., Miss.,⁴⁰⁹ with eight other persons ranging in age from Elizabeth, age 20, to Elvina, age 1 month. He is in Newton Co. tax records prior to 1850 but neither he nor any member of his family is to be found there at any later date;⁴¹³ the loss of Newton, Jones and Jasper County records makes it very difficult to determine where he may have gone, or even the number and names of his wives. His relationship to Major David Gavin has already been noted.³⁸⁴

Children of William and Rachel (Radcliffe) Gressett:

- 14 iv. [probably] John Daniel Gressett, b. 11 Jan. 1818, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 24 Nov. 1875, Comanche Co., Tex.; m. c. 1839, Jasper Co., Miss.. Nancy Elizabeth Mabry (b. 31 Oct. 1820; d. Runnels Co., Tex., in her husband's lifetime). Six children, including *Rachael* (age 7, 1850) and *William Walter* (age 3, 1850).⁴¹⁴ While he might be the male infant under 10 enumerated with the "unidentified" William Grisits in 1820,³⁶³ he is more likely the male age 10–15 in the household of William and Rachel.³⁸⁰
- 15 v. Susan Elizabeth Gressett, b. 1819, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 1877, Colleton Co., S.C.; m. Vincent Reeves (b. 1806; d. 1868, Colleton Co., S.C.).⁴¹⁵ Issue.

- 16 vi. [probably] Samuel R[adcliffe] Gressett, b. 1826; d. 27 May 1850, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.⁴¹⁶ His obituary mentions a large circle of relatives and friends both in and out of South Carolina, which would fit a son of William and Rachel. He might also have been the male age 10–15 enumerated in the household of the unidentified William Grisset of 1840.³⁶³
- 17 vii. Laurence F[unches?] Gressett, b. 1828 (22 in 1850);⁴¹⁷ d. 10 Feb. 1892, Branchville, Orangeburg Co., S.C.⁴¹⁸ Issue by wife Una (Unah, Umev).⁴¹⁹
- 18 viii. Tatum Gressett, b. 13 March 1831, Reevesville, S.C.; d. 22 July 1864, Atlanta, Ga. (in Confederate service); m. 2 Jan. 1853 Caroline Reeves (b. 23 Dec. 1832, St. George, S.C.; d. there 22 July 1877). Issue, including a son *William F.* and a daughter *Rachel A.*⁴²⁰ Many, if not all, of his descendants spell their name "Gressette" at this time.⁴²¹
- 19 ix. Marion Shieutt Gressett, b. 1833, Orangeburg Dist., S.C.; d. 19 May 1908, Branchville, Orangeburg Co., S.C.⁴²² Served in Company E, 1st S.C. Cavalry;⁴²³ graduate of S.C. Medical College, class of 1869,⁴²⁴ and physician serving his native community for many years. He m. (1) in 1869 Isabel Margaret Ott (b. 1830; d. 30 Dec. 1880).⁴²⁵ He m. (2) 18 Jan. 1882 Maggie Halford (b. Feb. 1855, Charleston, S.C.),⁴²⁶ who survived him but was dead before 19 May 1909, when the further administration of her late husband's estate was granted to Mrs. Isabelle Izlar.⁴²⁷ Issue by first wife, one dau., *Viola*, who m., 15 Jan. 1899, William A. Dukes.⁴²⁸

Before leaving this family, attention should be directed to the family of Lewis Robinson (age 55) and his wife Clarissa (age 52) of Newton County, Mississippi in 1850, both born in South Carolina. In their household was Esther Grisset, age 10, born in Mississippi.⁴²⁹ She was not the child of Charles G., who has a child Esther age 11 in his family, and there is no room for her in William's family. It is conceivable that she is an orphaned niece, and, keeping in mind that William and Cynthia also named a daughter Clarissa (Clearsey),⁴⁰⁸ further investigation might show that Clarissa Robinson was the other daughter of William and Catherine (Gavin) Gressett born prior to 1800.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

322. Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 8:160.

323. *Ibid.*, 8:249. It is tempting to attempt some identification of this Thomas with the "wandering" Thomas Grasett of Barbados (see *NGSQ* 66:84), but, apart from the report of his death, the latter was born in 1715 and could not possibly have had an adult son of the same name by 1741. Another possibility is the unidentified male, age 21, in the 1715 census in the James Grasett household. *supra* (*NGSQ* 66:92) note 143, for Thomas Gressit could have been born as early as 1694. Since James Grasett already had a son Thomas, such a connection would have to be left-handed. Or the young man might have been an orphaned nephew. A painstaking examination of early unindexed or badly indexed land and court records in Barbados might well produce more evidence.

324. Lancaster Co., Va. Order Book, 10:9, 22 Feb. 1752/3.

325. *Ibid.*, 11:528, 18 Nov. 1763.

326. Charles City Co., Va. Orders 1737–51, p. 142. This is misleadingly abstracted in *Va. Hist. Magazine* 21:86 as if it referred to the estate of a Thomas Gressit.

327. *Ibid.*, p. 143, Oct. 1740 term. The witnesses to the will were Robert Emson and Matthias Ayres.

328. Northumberland Co., Va. Wills, 7:459.

329. *Ibid.*, 7:22.

330. Polly Cary Mason, comp., *Records of Colonial Gloucester County*, 2 vols. (Newport News, Va. 1946–48), 1:95. In 1783 there were 5 white persons in each household. *Va. Hist. Magazine* 12:14, 16.

331. *Heads of Families . . . 1790: Virginia* (Washington, D.C., 1908), p. 69. The name Peyton Gressit appears after 1788 in county tax lists (at Va. State Library), which might be another clue to family connections. A Thomas Gresset, perhaps he of Gloucester County, was an applicant for Revolutionary War